

## ***News***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Board declares intent to deny Landers Solar Project**

SAN BERNARDINO- On a 3-2 vote, the Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a declaration of intent to grant an appeal which would reject a solar-project planned in Landers. During yesterday's Board meeting, a hearing was conducted regarding the appeal of a San Bernardino County Planning Commission's action to approve a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to establish a 3 megawatt photovoltaic solar power generating facility on 35 acres of land in the unincorporated community of Landers.

The Planning Commission had previously held a hearing to discuss the project's proposal and voted 3-2 in favor of approving the project. Shortly thereafter, Landers Association, Inc. and 12 property owners filed an appeal. The appellants cited the placement of commercial solar in residential neighborhoods, decreased property value, impact on scenic views, and impacts on desert landscape.

The Board heard staff presentations from Bowman Solar (applicant) and Landers Association, Inc. (appellant) as well as public comment. After asking a series of clarifying questions and offering closing remarks, the Board voted 3-2, on a motion to adopt a declaration of intent to grant the appeal and to deny the project. The discussion on the solar project will continue during the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Board meeting, at which time, staff will present formulated findings for denial of the project. Chairman Ramos voted against the project along with Supervisors'-Lovingood and Hagman.

"I felt this project did not fit the criteria of the solar ordinance. I believe the land is undisturbed land and that is the reason I voted against the project," Chairman Ramos stated. "It is important to find the balance between solar developers and the desert community."

Information regarding this item can be found on the May 5, 2015 Board agenda at <http://cob-sire.sbcounty.gov/sirepub/>.

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